

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
June 11, 2012

| DOA MEMBERS | DOA STAFF | EXCUSED | UNEXCUSED | GUESTS |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Rae Ann Butler | Kitty Devilbiss | David Gray, Comm | Hal Ehart | Belinda Teague-Levy |
| Dennis Ford | Sue Ramsburg | Millard Haines | | |
| Diane Julian | Pat Rosensteel | Virginia Skelley | | |
| Carol Krimm, Alderman | Kathy Schey | | | |
| Louise Lynch | Carolyn True | | | |
| Mary Rice | | | | |
| Debra Savageau | | | | |
| Pat Tudor | | | | |
| Robert Wannemacher | | | | |
| Steve Wilhide | | | | |
| Dan Yeeles | | | | |
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- I. Call to Order – RaeAnn Butler, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions –** RaeAnn welcomed all attendees.
- III. Action on the Agenda –** Bob Wannemacher would like to give a report on legislative updates. This will be added to the report portion of today's meeting.

- IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the May 14, 2012 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.
- V. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting. Belinda Teague-Levy was present and stated Commissioner Gray was pleased with the turnout for the Senior Forum last month. She asked that the commission please continue to keep the BoCC updated on any new actions. Commissioner Gray and Commissioner Smith are both very interested in the issues which were presented at the forum.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm spoke about the Weatherization program which is managed by the Frederick Community Action Agency. Grant funding was accepted at last Thursday's meeting. This program allows citizens to have the energy efficiency of their homes reviewed and may afford repair. This can be a beneficial program for seniors who are aging at home.

- VI. Follow up discussion about the Senior Forum, RaeAnn Butler** – There was some discussion on the Senior Forum. The citizen attendance was very good. There was some disappointment that three of the Commissioners did not attend. There were some comments that the forum was too long and some would have preferred a focus on public comment. The sound system may have been negatively affected by the room acoustics. Winchester Hall was suggested as an alternative location, however parking would be problematic at that site.

Follow up discussion concerning Planning Study, Pat Rosensteel – The BoCC have approved up to \$100,000 in funding for the Needs Assessment. The expectation is that the planning study group will continue to research and apply for appropriate grants. The BoCC would prefer to match whatever grant amount can be obtained. There is a small group developing the RFPs (request for proposals) which will be sent as a draft to the overall committee members for review and input. This work should start in early July depending on proposed grant availability.

There was some discussion on volunteer resources that may be available to assist with this process. Alderman Krimm reviewed the Legacy Leaders program. She has been eager to have this type of program available in Frederick but supportive interest has been lacking. College gerontology programs may be a good resource. Information regarding Needs Assessments done in surrounding counties has been requested. The Committee will keep the BoCC informed on progress.

VII. Discussion concerning Middletown Meals on Wheels initiative
Kitty Devilbiss – There is a considerable need for MoW delivery in the Middletown area. Kitty distributed a map which indicates the local requests for service. The Middletown area has strong community support. The DoA did not receive a grant which would have been used to launch this route. Some of the necessities which would facilitate this expansion are transportation of the food from the Frederick area to Middletown, hot bags and coolers to maintain appropriate food temperature, and a pool of volunteers to deliver the food to clients. Friends of MoW will help with the purchase of the hot bags/coolers. There may be an available minivan provided by donation from a Citizen Services Division agency. There will be a meeting with the faith based community in Middletown to discuss the volunteer needs. The hope is to have a Middletown route in place by October, 2012. There was discussion regarding delivery strategies using local community resources. The vendor for this route would be the Adult Detention Center which is cost effective and currently a food vendor for other routes. Sometimes the insurance requirements put in place by the County are a deterrent to obtaining vendors. This can hinder putting services in remote areas.

Senior Center Visits, RaeAnn Butler – One issue that was uncovered during the forum is the lack of visits to the various Senior Centers by the CoA. The Urbana Center members invited the CoA members to visit them. It was also suggested that members individually go to the senior center in their community to network with the seniors in their area. Another option would be that the senior center attendees be present at the monthly CoA meetings. One possibility would be to have one representative from each center attend the CoA meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available to seniors via the Frederick County government website. Another suggestion was to have a CoA members put on the center monthly schedule so that attendees know when members are there and will have time to prepare to discuss any issues. Any issues should be passed along to the BoCC. The BoCC could also be invited to visit the local senior centers. The seniors and the senior center coordinators should be made aware that they can bring concerns to the CoA at any time. Kitty will make sure the coordinators are aware of the open door.

There was some discussion on holding the September meeting at the Urbana Senior Center. Members can arrive early for lunch and network with the senior center participants. The plan can be confirmed at the August meeting. Lunch contribution is (up to) \$4.80 and 48 hour advance reservations are required.

VIII. Legislative report, Bob Wannemacher – Bob distributed a report highlighting some of the state legislative changes made during the past

session. There was some discussion on the Task Force to study renovation and repair needs of senior homeowners. There is a similar program already in place. There was very little legislative change regarding senior issues. Lack of funding continues to be an obstacle.

TSAC, Alderman Krimm – There was some discussion regarding the proposed changes in the fares and routes for local transit service. There has been one public hearing and another scheduled for June 21st. Although an increase is needed to avoid cuts to service, the fare increase is a hardship for seniors on limited income. There has been an increase on riders for the regular bus lines. Transit is looking into advertising opportunities on buses to raise funds. It was decided that the CoA will take a stance on this issue. Our position will be to continue current service and limit price increase as much as possible. RaeAnn will draft a letter.

State CoA, Louise Lynch – This meeting will be held Wednesday this week. Louise will report to the State Commission the results of our recent Forum.

PiC, Diane Julian – There is nothing to report at this time.

Nominating, Diane Julian – There was a recent letter of interest. An interview was held, but a decision will not be made until after July when the next advertisement will be sent out. There are still two open positions. There are five renewals coming at the end of December. These members will need to send a letter of continued interest to Joyce Grossnickle. Hal Ehart has continued to have unexcused absences to these meetings. The recommendation was put forth that he be asked to resign until his current job situation is clear and he could reapply at that time. Diane will contact him with this recommendation.

Affordable Housing Council, Dennis Ford - There is nothing to report at this time. Dennis has not received the minutes from the last meeting.

Friends of MoW, Louise Lynch - There has been a change in the board. Gail Wingate is now the President and Louise has moved into the Vice President position. The group is currently looking for more members with ties to the community. They are continuing to work on fundraising initiatives.

USM, Ginny Skelley – Ginny was not present at today's meeting. No report at this time.

Adult Public Disabled Review Board, RaeAnn Butler – Mary attended her first meeting as the new liaison. There is a good mix of community services who attend this meeting.

MAP, Kathy Schey – Kathy thanked the CoA members for their support at the recent Convoy of Hope event. There was a large local turnout at this event. Many of the DoA resource guides were distributed. It was also an opportunity to network with other local support agencies. The new MAP grant has been submitted. The Freedom Center is in the process of hiring a staff person to work on-site at the DoA location. The process of creating the next version of the blue book resource guide has begun. The blue book will also be available on the State of Maryland MAP website.

Director, Carolyn True – Carolyn distributed a monthly report with a grant report attached. She also thanked everyone for the support during the Convoy of Hope event.

A new planning group has recently formed and will be holding a workshop next spring. This group is for people interested in issues that affect the lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual older adults. This is considered a small but growing population.

The next MAP grant has been submitted. The BoCC approved the submission last month. The amount being requested is \$164,000. A request for additional staff is included in the grant.

We did not receive the MoW/Walmart Foundation grant. The funds would have been used to expand the MoW program to include a Middletown route. This grant would have also supported a volunteer coordinator position and well as assisted in the cost of the Needs Assessment. There is a huge need for the funds provided through this grant. There were likely many applications for these funds.

WiFi will be available at the Frederick Senior Center by the end of this week. WiFi will also be available at the other senior centers soon.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the CCRC and Montevue tomorrow.

There will be a Caregiver Tea held at Heartfields next month. This is an annual event.

The Silver Ribbon series is being held at the Frederick Senior Center this week. This is collaborative event between the DoA and the Sheriff's Department and is a very good educational opportunity for the

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senior population. Today's segment was well received. The hope is to make this a yearly event.

There has been an increase in calls for home health needs other than nutritional needs. Seniors are being discharged from the hospital and are sometimes overwhelmed with follow up instructions and/or obtaining necessary home services. Carolyn is working with the discharge planning committee at Frederick Memorial which is tasked with ensuring safe discharges and avoiding readmission. This is a work in progress and improvements are slowly being made. The hospital is very aware of the situation. There was a suggestion that a letter of concern be drafted and sent to Tom Kleinhanzl, FMH President. RaeAnn will draft a letter to be sent on behalf of the CoA. This is just more confirmation that there is a true need for case managers to follow vulnerable seniors.

IX. Announcements, All – Jim Judd, who was a very active member of this Commission, recently passed away. There was some discussion on a memorial donation in his name. Louise suggested a remembrance in the new Montevue or CCRC memorial garden. She will investigate the cost and process.

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

August 15, 2012, Senior Tax Credit Seminar, 10:00 at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD

August 28, 2012. CoA Executive Committee meeting, 1:00 at Frederick County Dept of Aging

September 10, 2012, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Urbana Senior Center, Urbana, MD

October 3, 2012, Elder Expo, Frederick Fair Grounds